

# NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
**Date: April 7, 2008**

**Contact: Lisa M. Ventriss, President**  
**(802) 865-0410**  
[lisa@vtroundtable.org](mailto:lisa@vtroundtable.org)

## **Roundtable Calls for Increased Public Investment in Higher Education** **Issues Updated Research in Latest Policy Brief**

In January 2004 the Vermont Business Roundtable issued its first report on the vital importance of higher education as a driver of Vermont's 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. Since that time, the need for support of this important economic sector has only become more pronounced. The Roundtable is again calling attention to the fact that, since its report was issued in 2004, Vermont has made no progress, but is in fact falling further behind in its support.

"Higher education is a vitally important sector of the Vermont economy," said Roundtable President, Lisa Ventriss, "and has increased its economic impact by 70 percent since 2002. However, Vermont still ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation in per capita support for higher education."

The Roundtable calls upon state government to adopt the policy that public investment in our human capital is the single most powerful strategy Vermont can adopt for our economy and our future. "You have to have a good degree of vision, because this frequently involves investment in the front end that yields a return in four or five years," notes Bill Stritzler, Managing Director of Smugglers' Notch Resort and Roundtable Vice Chair. "A well-educated workforce means good jobs, and good jobs mean higher pay. Higher pay means more revenue to the state, and that means being able to take care of our social needs, including higher education," said Stritzler.

The report calls for Vermont to improve the affordability and accessibility of higher education for Vermont's students by increasing its rank to 40th in state appropriations for higher education within the next five years.

A copy of the 2008 policy brief can be found at [www.vtroundtable.org](http://www.vtroundtable.org).

\* \* \*

*The Roundtable was created in 1987 as a nonprofit, public interest organization, comprised of 110 CEOs of Vermont's top private and non-profit sector employers dedicated to making Vermont the best place in America to do business, be educated, and live life, through collaboration, research and analysis, and communication and advocacy.*